

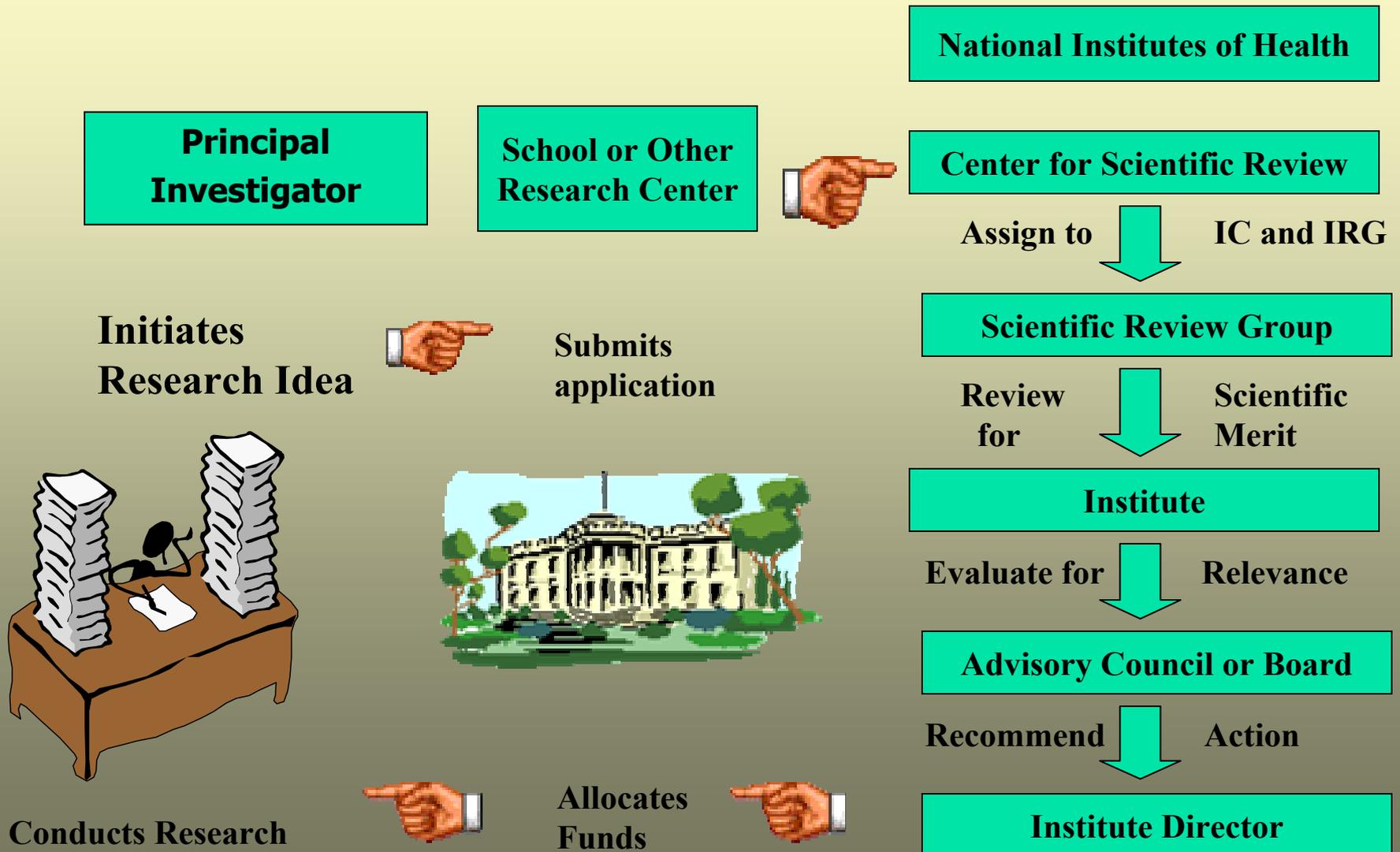
Peer Review of NIH Research Grant Applications



Scientific Review Administrator
Center for Scientific Review
National Institutes of Health
(301) 435-0694
Wellerr@csr.nih.gov

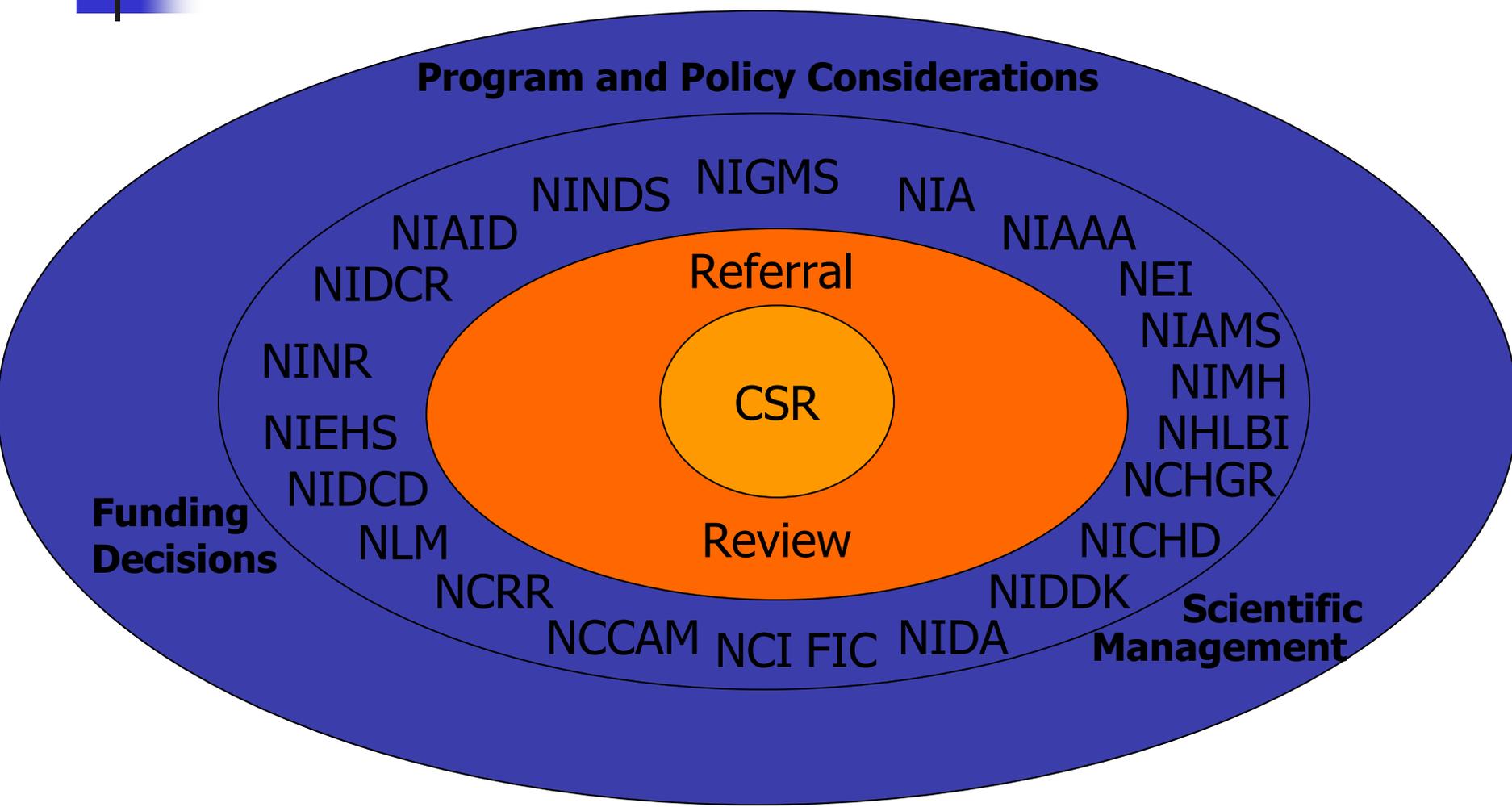
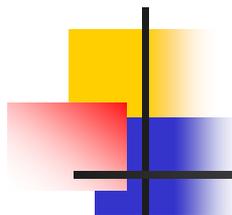


REVIEW PROCESS FOR A RESEARCH GRANT





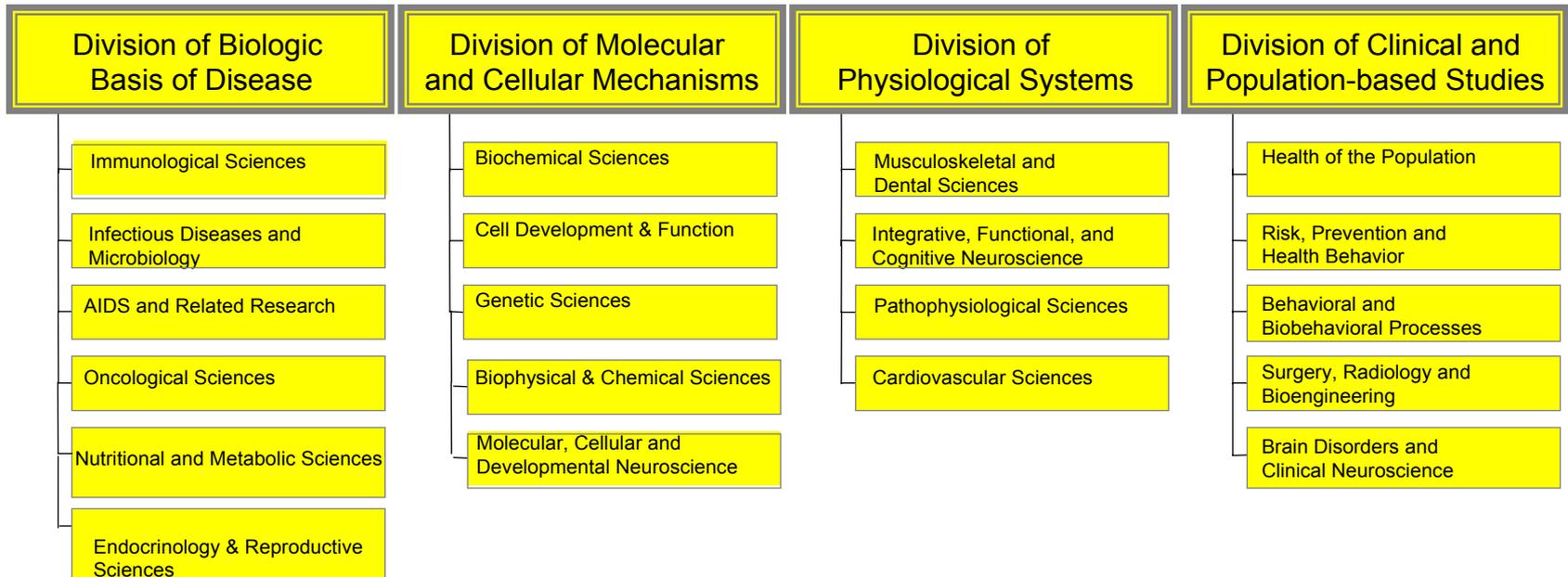
NIH Referral and Review Process



Distribution of IRGS to 4 Divisions

Center for Scientific Review

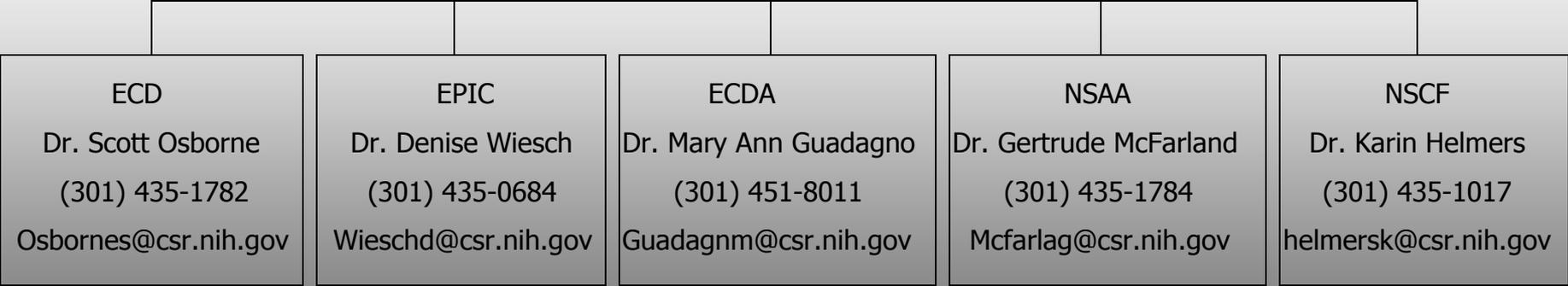
Review Divisions



HOP IRG

SSPS
Dr. Bob Weller
(301) 435-0694
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HOP IRG



WWW.CSR.NIH.GOV/REVIEW/IRGDESC.ASP#HOP

WHERE ARE APPLICATIONS REVIEWED?

CSR

Research projects
Academic Research
Enhancement Awards
Postdoctoral Fellowships
Small Business Innovation
Shared Instrumentation

Research Institutes

Program projects
Centers
Institutional Training Grants
Conference Grants
Career Awards
Small Grants
RFAs
Contracts

***DEPENDS UPON MECHANISM AND INSTITUTE**

WHO/WHAT DETERMINES WHICH GROUP REVIEWS MY APPLICATION?

- **Mechanism**
- **Referral and Review Staff**
 - Scientists, most of whom also serve as **Scientific Review Administrators (SRAs)** of **CSR Study Sections**
- **Initial Review Group (IRG) Chiefs and SRAs**
 - IRGs: Clusters of scientifically related study sections**
 - IRG Chiefs are also SRAs with own Study Section(s)**
- **Past review history (if any) of application**
- **Principal Investigator**
 - Letter attached to application; self-referral**

SCIENTIFIC REVIEW GROUP

- **Scientific Review Administrator**

 - Recruits and selects reviewers**

 - Sees that each application gets review that is competent, thorough and fair**

 - Assures that proper review criteria used**

- **Reviewers**

 - Some charter members; some temporary members**

 - Scientists with appropriate expertise**

 - High professional profiles**

 - Dependable, reasonable, open minded**



- **Grants Technical Assistant**

 - Mails material to reviewers**

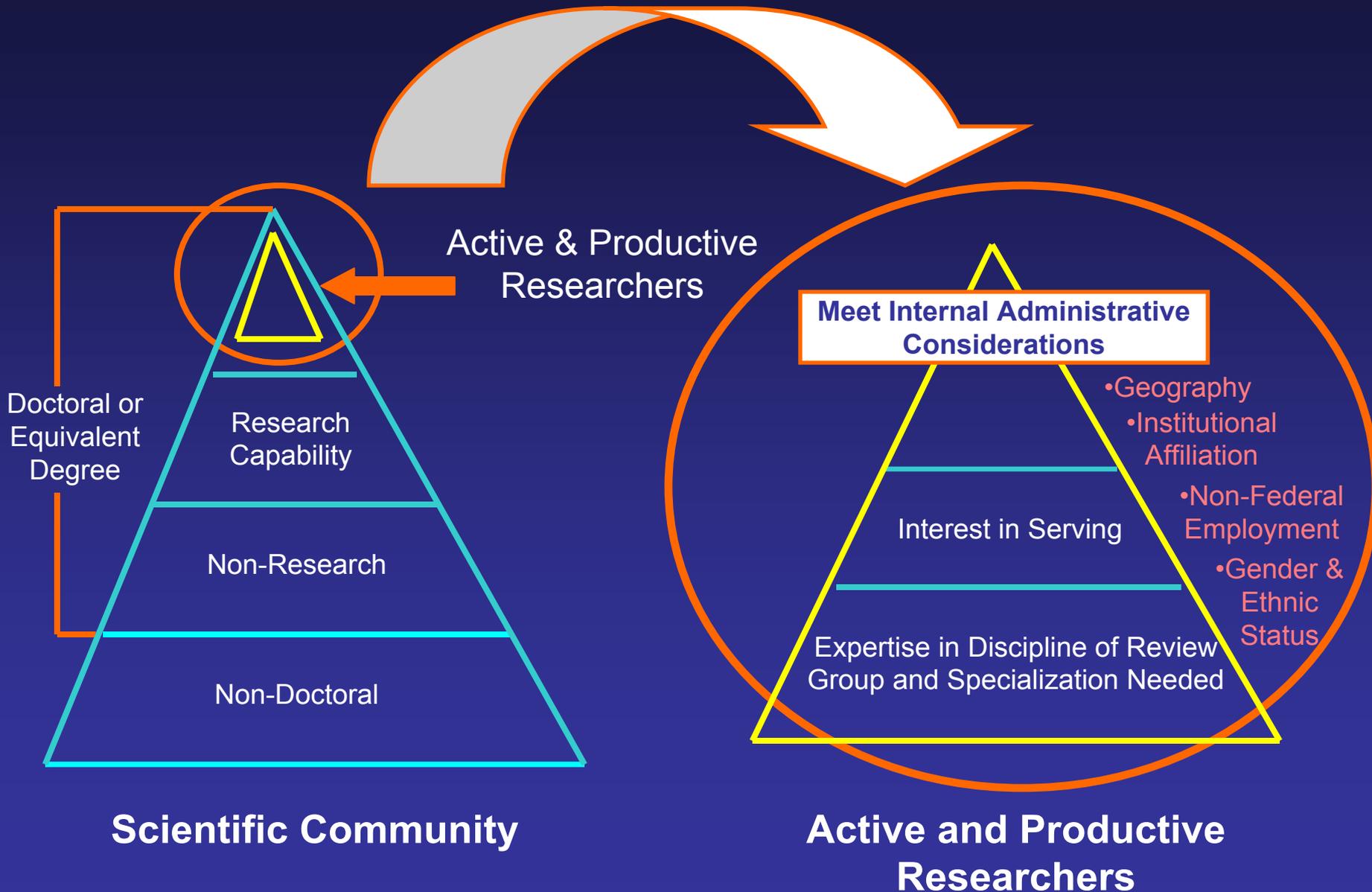
 - Handles paperwork**

 - Organizes meeting room**

 - Enters scores and codes**

 - Assists in preparation of summary statements**

Criteria for Selection of Peer Reviewers



WHO ASSIGNS REVIEWERS TO MY APPLICATION?

- **Scientific Review Administrator**

Based upon expertise of reviewers

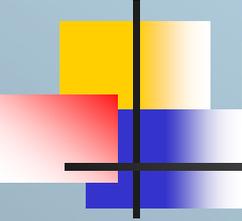
Based upon knowledge of the field

May consult with professional staff in Institute

May consult with chairperson

Considers review history



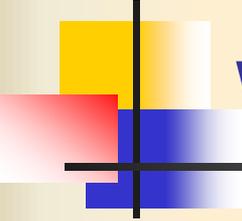


Review of Research Grants

REVIEW CRITERIA:

- Significance
- Approach
- Innovation
- Investigator
- Environment





WHAT IS STREAMLINING?

The process by which applications judged by the reviewers to be in the worse half of those assigned for review are not discussed at the Scientific Review Group meeting.

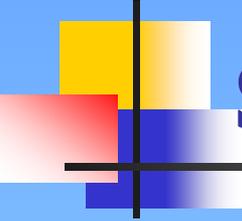
- **Any member can object to the streamlining of an application**
- **Streamlined applications receive written critiques from the reviewers**
- **Allows more time for discussion of more meritorious applications**
- **Shortens meetings and some persons more willing to serve**



WHAT HAPPENS IN A STUDY SECTION MEETING?

- **Closed (FACA)**
- **Orientation**
 - Conflict of interest**
 - Developments of interest to the study section**
 - Changes in policy or procedure**
 - Role of persons present**
- **Streamlining list provisionally approved**
- **Application by application review**
 - Persons with conflicts of interest excused**
 - Assigned reviewers give preliminary scores**
 - Discussion of application's scientific and technical merit**
 - Assigned reviewers first, then other members**
 - Range of scores set**
 - Assignment of gender, minority, and children codes, human subjects codes**
 - Every member scores every application**
 - Changes to budget**

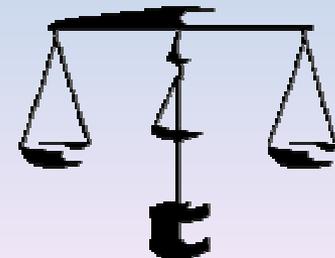


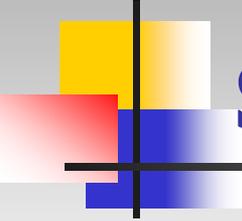


STUDY SECTIONS DO NOT FUND

INSTITUTES FUND!

- **Study Sections judge application's scientific and technical merit**
- **Institutes take these evaluations very seriously**
- **Institutes also consider relevance of application to the Institute's research priorities**





SOME USEFUL WEBSITES

- WWW.NIH.GOV
NIH homepage; directories; information;
gateway to parts of NIH
- WWW.NIH.GOV/ICD
Information about Institutes
- WWW.CSR.NIH.GOV/REFREV.HTM
Application forms, rosters, policies
- WWW.CSR.NIH.GOV/irgdesc.asp#hop
Information about HOP

